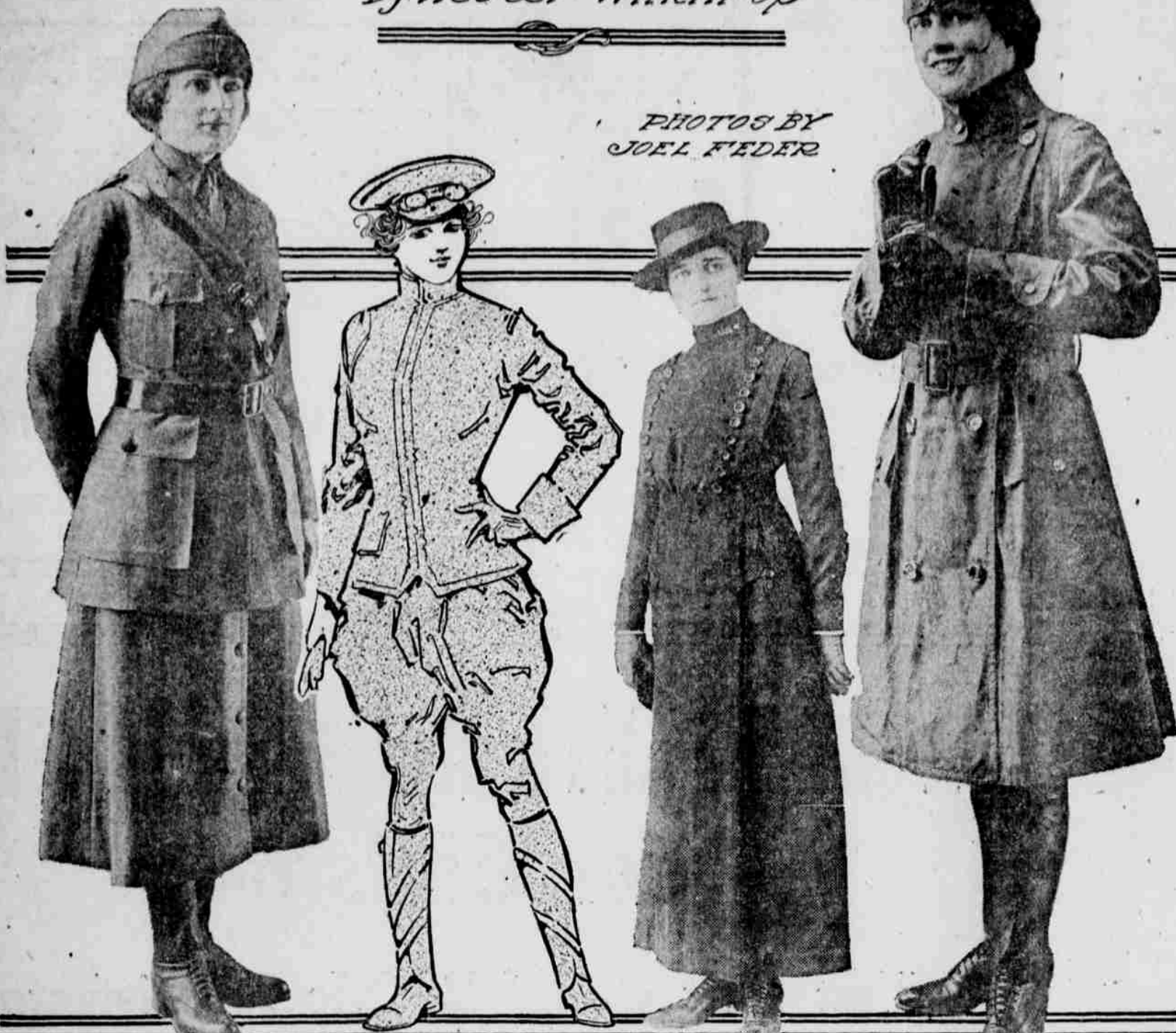


War Radically Alters FEMININE COSTUMES

by Hester Winthrop

PHOTOS BY
JOEL FEDER



The Motor Corps Girls are Proud of Their Trim, Natty Rig

Here is the Lady of the Hour—The Red Cross Nurse

Everybody Acknowledges the Trim Good-Lookingness of the Ambulance Costume

New Uniforms for Femininity Are As Picturesque and Dashing As Sport Clothes - Every Housewife Likes the Conservation Apron - Footwear.

IT WILL be a long time—if ever—before women go back to the old, before-the-war standards of dress. Radical changes have taken place in feminine ideas about clothes. Changes from early Victorian times to the first years of the twentieth century were gradual but they were considerable; changes during the past few years have been rapid and even more considerable. The old days have gone when tight corsets, silk petticoats, high heeled shoes and gloves were part of every costume for any hour of the day, outside one's own home. Woman dresses now for her occupation and the clothes she puts on in the morning may be utterly and entirely different from the skin out from those she dons in the afternoon. There are clothes for work and clothes for play—sport togs, business togs, uniforms, formal raiment, semi-formal raiment, at-home garb, rainy-day garb—and so on through the day up to the hours of conventional evening dress.

Comfort A First Consideration

Woman has found she can do without a number of things once demanded by conventionality. Hatpins, for instance. Hatpins used to be as essential as hairpins. Every hat had its special set of hatpins, long or short, plain or fancy headed. If one lost or mislaid her hatpin it was supposed to be necessary to stop in a store on the way home and provide another. Few women bother with hatpins now; the hat settles down comfortably on the head, like a man's, and stays where it is put—especially the sport hat or the soft cap which accompanies a uniform. Gloves also have been found less essential than one thought they were. A good many women went without gloves all last summer and this custom, admitted to be a wartime economy, may establish itself as a habit, so comfortable it was to go without confining gloves in sultry weather. Men discarded gloves in summer time but most women have thought gloves an essential of the outdoor costume from time immemorial—or since the day when mitts went out of vogue—and up to last summer it was not quite the proper thing to go about gloveless, even on the hottest, most humid August day. Gloves are seldom worn with evening gowns now—the arms are left bare from shoulder to fingertip, except when clouds of tulle are wrapped gracefully about the figure.

The Most Radical Change Is In Footwear

If the war has taught woman nothing else, it has vastly enlarged her viewpoint about shoes. They feet are no longer the ideal standard of beauty. No one cares a jot whether a woman wears number twos or number sixes any more—least of all the woman herself, provided her feet have the slender aristocratic lines that are now considered beautiful. A generation ago woman hated to admit to a shoe over a number three length and a good many feet were told about boot sizes in those days. The tall, willowy young thing says boldly to the shoe salesman these days, "Sport oxfords, size six and a half, please." And the wearer of a size four congratulates herself on having rather a petite foot.

There is no doubt that the feminine foot is larger than it used to be, just as the feminine waist is larger. It is a very unusual debutante nowadays who can pin half a yard of ribbon around her waistline, yet eighteen-inch waists were the rule rather than the exception in her grandmother's day. What modern athletic exercise has done to build up and broaden woman, mentally as well as physically, war work has completed. Frivolity is little apparent in woman's outdoor costume of today. Dignity, grace and a pleasing suitability for its usages mark the modern feminine costume one sees in the street, be it a snappy sport costume, a trim uniform, or a handsome tailored suit for formal wear. And if woman chooses to be a little bit frivolous in her intimate wear—the pretty things that are visible only in the privacy of her own room—or in her evening and dancing and supper frocks donned when the duties of the day are laid aside and play-time begins, who is there but is glad that feminine love for captivating and charming clothes still lives?

Pretty little high-heeled dancing slippers and kid boots tripping under velvet gowns in spite of all the terrible things that have been said against you, it would be sad indeed if you vanished completely from our ken! Welcome, however, the sturdy, honest, sensible walking boots war service has taught woman to wear when her feet must really walk and carry her weight. After two years of these delightfully comfortable, low-heeled boots and oxfords nobody is going back to high-heeled thin soled footwear for general wear with tailored clothes unless fashion fairly goads her into it.

Supreme Dignity In The Red Cross Uniform

One reason woman has adored her uniforms during the war is because they are each and every one so expressive of the work they represent. Take the jaunty, natty Motor Corps costume for instance, and compare it with the quiet, dignified street costume of the Red Cross nurse. Does not each express perfectly the avocation its represents? Who that was sick and suffering and racked with pain would not choose as an attendant the simply clad Red Cross young woman with her air of quiet efficiency and gentle dignity rather than a dashing little miss in short skirt and rakish cap? Yet the trim, tidy Motor Corps costume is perfectly all right in its own place and the girl who jumps in and out of her own car and flies about

on errands of service would not fit the picture at all in the somber garb of the nurse.

The ambulance costume is exactly suited for its purpose also. The knee-length coat, trimly belted, the heavy gloves and the little cap which nobody has to think of pinning on with hatpins, are admirably designed for active service. A long hampering skirt to the ankles would be entirely out of place on the driver of an ambulance—the neat laced shoes and puttees look very much better with the rest of the costume.

Yeowoman's Cape Will Remain After War Days

A splendid service wrap is the long, loose cape called the yeowoman's cape, a garment that is attractively military in semblance with its convertible collar and frog fastenings, and which entirely covers the frock beneath. This good cape can be worn over a white linen costume or one of dark serge, or may be thrown over a short-skirted motor costume; and its wearer will be neat and tidy and inconspicuous for a journey through the street or in a train. It is a splendidly warm cape of heavy wool cloth in dark blue, and stitched slashes at either side are provided for the hands. The French Red Cross nurse has an attractive stormy cloak of gray cloth with raglan sleeves and a loose belt. A close hood lined with red silk may be turned up over the head and strapped beneath the chin when a journey is to be taken in an open vehicle in the rain.

Long, long after war matters have been finally settled up, housewives will be wearing the tidy Conservation Apron, which made its appearance at food conservation cooking classes last year. The apron is just what every woman who does her own work has been searching for, for years—an all-enveloping garment that is at the same time trim and graceful of line. The Conservation Apron is pictured and every woman who is not familiar with it will approve its long, graceful lines, the arrangement of the belt, the straight panel-front, the capacious pockets and the dainty collar and cuffs of white linen. The cap adds very much to the costume, and should always accompany the apron. Tendrils of hair have been known to stray into cooking viands with disastrous results on the appetite of the diner, and the smoke, odors and steam of any kitchen during the preparation of a meal are anything but good for the coiffure. Most shops carry patterns in

CHRISTMAS "EATS" FOR THE BOYS IN CAMP

VERSASEAS CHRISTMAS gifts have gone now—and millions of labeled packages, examined and passed by the Red Cross, are on their way to Europe—but there still remains time to provide gifts and good things to eat for the soldiers at cantonments and training camps on this side of the water, and rules for gift packages sent to soldiers in this country are less severe. The boy in camp may have a Christmas box of home-cooked goodies, and some of the shops are putting up packages of specially selected "eats" which will appeal to the

lads who cannot get home for Christmas Day. The Christmas box should contain candy, nuts, raisins, figs, a bottle of olives, Christmas fruit cake and plenty of cigarettes. A tin or two of chicken will be an attractive addition if the soldier possesses a camp cooking kit. Glass jars of preserves or other dainties should not be packed in the box, or home-made layer cakes or mince pies. A few holly red candles and some highly decorated crepe paper napkins will occupy small space in the box and will add a touch of holiday cheer to Christmas in camp.



The Housewife's Conservation Apron, Recommended by Mr. Hoover—is Ideal for Work in the Home

The Yeowoman's Cape is Admirably Adapted for Its Service

Ribbons Play a Large Part in Practical Gifts

HERE ARE so many uses for ribbon on costume this season that any woman will be glad to resolve several yards of almost any width ribbon as a Christmas gift and one's offering will have charm as well as practical features—for is there anything more charming than yards and yards of lustrous ribbon in some beautiful shade?

Ribbons are used for sashes, for neck-bows, for hat bows, for fancy ruffles, for trimming dancing petticoats and dancing frocks. Paris this year is using great quantities of ribbon on lingerie, not only satin ribbons in the pastel tints, but silver and gold tissue ribbons, brocade ribbons and even black ribbons. A petticoat from a French shop is of pleated and paneled pink crepe de chine and black velvet ribbon run down the panels, threaded through buttonholed slashes. The petticoat is joined to a brassiere of lace over pink chiffon and this has black velvet ribbons over the shoulders. Another French garment comes with all edges bound in pink satin ribbon, the petticoat having three tiers, each ribbon-bound. Callot furnishes for wear with her clinging evening gowns, short petticoats of black satin cut in panels; each panel bound all around with gobelin blue faille ribbon and embroidered with blue and silver chrysanthemums.

Still another French petticoat, from a famous French house, is of old blue satin with three pleated frills of white chiffon and a flounce of white chiffon inset with black chintilly motifs. A fringe made of short loops of black and white satin ribbon hangs from the bottom. This petticoat matches a brassiere of chintilly and chiffon, with black ribbons over the shoulders and threaded across the upper edge.

When it comes to brassieres, fashion is in her element with ribbons. There are so many fascinating ways of using wide and narrow ribbon in a brassiere. Two new brassieres—or camisoles if you prefer to call them so—are pictured. Ribbons play a

large part in the prettiness of each garment; and, of course, these dainty camisoles, with their fetching caps to match, are included in the list of "useful Christmas gifts." Wouldn't any woman find such a camisole useful? And wouldn't she be delighted to have it presented to her in gift form? Cap and camisole combinations, it appears, are quite the fad this season and in many of the shops one finds matching caps and camisoles in holiday boxes all ready for Christmas purchasers.

One of the sets pictured combines a white camisole and cap, color being added by a pink ribbon rose on each garment. The camisole is made of a strip of thin soft white satin, shirred on fine cords below the bustline to give it a smooth fit on the figure. Ribbons under shirred casings draw in the waistline and the upper edge—just below the line of scallops. The scallops are turned over a fine cord at the edge and a frill of Val lace is whipped on. The shoulder straps are of rather wide satin ribbon, drawn in by shirring to keep the ribbon from slipping down on the arm. The cap matches the camisole, with its corded, shirred satin crown and edge of lace-trimmed scallops. A pale pink rose with pink buds—all made of satin ribbon—is tucked against one side and the white ribbon chin-strap matches the white cap.

Pale blue ribbons and silver lace make up the other cap and camisole pictured. This set comes from a Paris shop and is an expensive bit of finery to be sure! But it could be copied at home without great difficulty by the woman who wants to give her best woman chum something "useful," and also luxurious enough to escape the severe utilitarian standard. Two plant whalebones are run under ribbon casings down the front of this lace brassiere to give it shape and there is a foundation beneath the strip of silver lace, of thin pale blue silk seamed and shaped with darts below the bust. Bow-knots of double-faced blue satin ribbon are applied to the lace and in the exact center of each bow-knot is a tiny, pale pink flower. More of these dainty, pale pink posies appear at the ends of the lace and ribbon shoulder straps and in the loops of pale blue satin ribbon over the fastening of the brassiere.

An attractive brassiere is of pleated ribbons in pale pink, put together with strips of Val lace. Another brassiere has motifs of fillet net framed in white faille ribbon. Another model is made of wide, soft flesh pink ribbon simply tied around the figure, under the arms and over the bust, shoulder straps of narrower, pleated ribbon keeping the wide band from slipping down. A brassiere of hand-embroidered batiste imitates a little bolero, the fronts dividing to show a panel of hand-tucked batiste across which narrow blue ribbon is tied in tailored bows.

The craze for ribbon trimming extends even to nightgowns. One very pretty model of flesh tinted crepe de chine has self-tied satin ribbon bindings around the neck, at the hem and around very wide sleeves. A ribbon belt, passing through slashes in the gown, is tied high under the bust in the Empire style. Another coquettish nightgown has embroidered eyelets down the front—below the round neck opening—and the eyelets are laced up with narrow, pale blue satin ribbon. The same effect is repeated on each sleeve, eyelets and ribbon lacing following a slash at the outer side.

About twenty yards of inch-wide ribbon will make a dainty gift for a young girl who has dancing frocks in

mind. The narrow ribbons will be sewed on silk net, round and round the frock, like tucks—as braid is being used on velvet dresses this season. A delightful little dancing frock of the kind is made of daffodil yellow silk net over a slip of palest lavender satin. Daffodil and pale mauve ribbons are sewed in rows on the silk net, the two colors together in each row, one ribbon overlapping the other, while the groups are several inches apart all the way up skirt and bodice. A sash



This Year Cap And Brassiere Sets Are The Holiday Gift-Fad Pale Blue Satin Ribbon And Silver Lace Were Used In The Making Of This Coquettish Set.

Gift seekers will find wonderful ribbons in the widths suitable for sashes—shimmering satins, metal threaded brocades and ribbons with lace insets. There are also velvet ribbons in all widths from tiny ribbons for show-er bows on lingerie to handsome, wide velvet ribbon for trimming sport hats.

ALL SORTS OF NEW DOLLS FOR CHRISTMAS

THE AMERICAN doll makers have out-done themselves, that no little girl may lack a doll-treasure this year. The baby dolls are more lovable and natural than ever—with red baby faces that smile or cry, and cuddly little dimpled bodies that it is a delight to dress and undress. Some dolls are so Hooverized as to costume that their clothes are painted on, but any little girl prefers a doll with a removable wardrobe especially when the modish street costume is supplemented by a cunning nightgown, a comfy bathrobe and little crocheted bed slippers. Modern dollies have even boudoir caps for wear at the breakfast hour, and real hair that may be put up in curl papers over night—just imagine the fun of it!



White Satin And White Ribbon—And Ribbon Roses In Palest Blush Pink—Are Combined In This Christmas Set Of Brassiere And Cap.